

**LAMPROGRAMMUS SHCHERBACHEVI (OPHIDIIDAE) FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC.** Jørgen G. NIELSEN, Zoological Museum, Universitetsparken 15, 2100 Copenhagen, DENMARK [jgnielsen@zmuc.ku.dk] & Werner SCHWARZHANS, Ahrensburger Weg 103, 22359 Hamburg, GERMANY.

**RÉSUMÉ.** *Lamprogrammum shcherbachevi* (Ophidiidae) de l'Atlantique Nord.

Deux exemplaires d'un Ophidiidae rare, *Lamprogrammum shcherbachevi* Cohen & Rohr, 1993, ont été récemment récoltés dans l'Atlantique Nord-Est, l'un à l'ouest de l'Écosse (connu seulement par des photographies) et l'autre du banc des Féroé (conservé au Musée de Thorshavn, sans numéro de catalogue). Cette espèce était précédemment connue du Chili, de l'Australie-Occidentale, d'Angola et du Surinam. La longueur standard des six exemplaires connus varie de 71,5 à environ 200 mm. La sagitta de 13 mm de l'otolithe de l'exemplaire des Féroé (environ 200 mm LS) est figurée. Comme les sagittas des autres espèces du genre *Lamprogrammum*, elle est allongée, fortement comprimée et avec un sulcus individualisé sans canal ostial. Elle diffère de celle des autres par la présence de deux échancrures profondes entaillant le bord dorsal.

**Key words.** Ophidiidae - *Lamprogrammum shcherbachevi* - NE - Faroese Bank - New record.

Two additional specimens of the rare ophidiid fish, *Lamprogrammum shcherbachevi* Cohen & Rohr, 1993, were recently caught in the North-east Atlantic. In December 1995 a French trawler caught a 142 mm long specimen at a depth of ca 1000 m, west of Scotland (58°35'N, 09°00'W). Later the specimen was discarded. However, a series of photos clearly show its specific identity. In July 1997 a Faroese trawler caught a 170 mm long specimen when trawling at 300-500 m on the southern slope of the Faroese Bank (ca 61°N, 7°W). *L. shcherbachevi* was described by Cohen and Rohr (1993) on the basis of four specimens (SL 71.5-193 mm) from off Chile, Western Australia, Angola and Suriname. They called it a giant, circumglobal, ophidiid species and the present two specimens fit well into that description.

*L. shcherbachevi* can be separated from the remaining 4-5 species of the genus by the presence of a basibranchial tooth patch, maxillary sheathed posteriodorsally, many flat spines posteriorly on opercle and hindmargin of preopercle with 5 stiff projections.

The Faroese specimen, kept in Thorshavn Museum (no cat. no.), the Faroe Islands, is missing the caudal part and measures 170 mm. The number of dorsal fin rays is about 120 and considering that the previously known specimens, all intact, have 131-140 dorsal fin rays it can be estimated that this specimen was almost 200 mm long. The few meristic characters available all correspond to the original description: pectoral fin rays 19, pelvic fin rays 0, gill rakers on anterior arch 21, preopercle with 6-7 projections and opercle with many small projections on posterior edge. Also the long, narrow basibranchial tooth patch (50 x 2-5 mm) is typical for the species.

The figure shows the left, sagittal otolith of the Faroese specimen. Otoliths from species of *Lamprogrammum* are easily recognized by the combination of the following characters: shape elongate and very compressed with a large, undivided sulcus without an ostial channel. Nolf (1980, pl. 1) has illustrated the otoliths of *L. fragilis*, *exutus* and *niger* and the latter two are also shown by Schwarzhans (1981: 99). The otolith of *L. shcherbachevi* differs from congeneric species by the two deep incisions in the dorsal rim leaving an extruding process just above the middle of the sulcus.

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## REFERENCES

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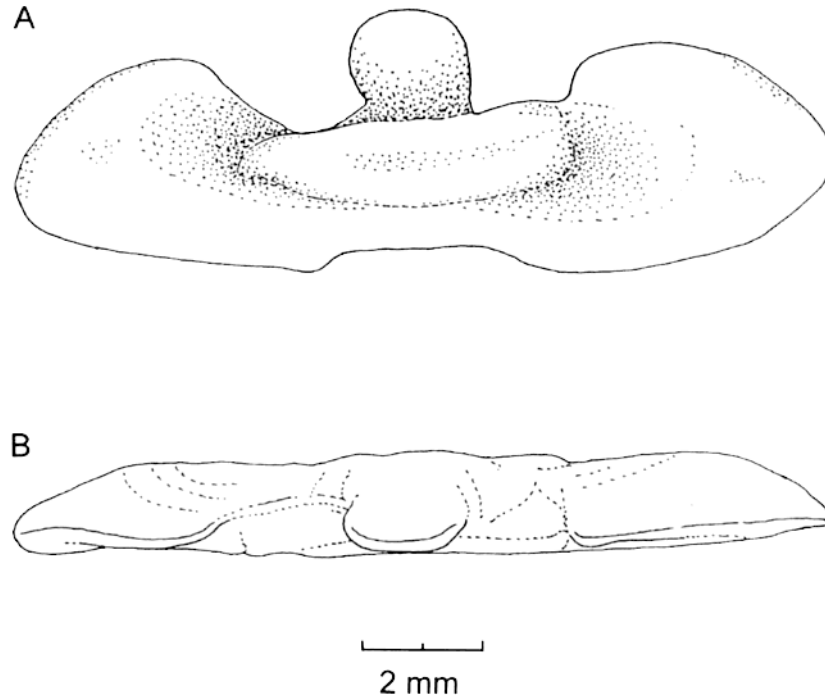


Fig. 1. 1. Sagittal otolith of *Lamprogrammus shcherbachevi*. A: Median view. B: Dorsal view.

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